

## ABSTRACT

A system for querying a database. Query strings comprising queries from application program are loaded from a text file into a query lookup table. The application then utilizes a database interface query function to  
5 access the queries in the lookup table. The query function uses the query name provided by the application to locate the corresponding query string in the lookup table. The query function then performs parameter substitution on the query string and sends the query to the database. The query results are then retrieved, formatted, and sent to the querying application. The  
10 present invention allows an application program to access data stored on databases organized by various database management systems which employ different query formats. Although the databases organize the data differently, the same content may be extracted by the present system. Changes to the database queries take place outside the application code in a  
15 simple text file that is loaded by the querying application.